

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

SERVICE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The NEWS is intended to inform staff members of developments within the Service and is not for distribution to others.

Benton, Miss Mildred

July 20, 1938

CEREMONIES IN THE MUSKINGUM VALLEY

To New Philadelphia, Ohio, last week, went the Chief to participate in the dedication ceremonies at the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District's new Bolivar Reservoir, 14 miles north of the town.

Bolivar is one of the 14 flood-control and water-conservation reservoirs constructed under the supervision of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and formally turned over to the Conservancy District on July 1. Total capacity of the 14 is 1,539,200 acre-feet, of which 1,326,400 are reserved for flood control and the remaining 212,800 are used for water conservation.

The Conservancy District, created as a perpetual public corporation in June 1938, includes most of the 8,038 sq. mi. of land drained by the Muskingum River and its tributaries, has a population of 675,000, and is believed to mark the first cooperative effort of the Federal Government, a State, and a local public corporation to conserve soil and water, prevent floods, reforest land, protect wildlife, develop recreational areas, halt pollution of streams, and make climatic and hydrologic research studies.

One of the 15 participators in the coordinated program for the watershed, the Soil Conservation Service maintains there the following units:

1. A Soil Conservation Experiment Station, first of the Department's erosion-control projects to come to the Valley. Established in 1932 near Zanesville, the station makes quantitative measurements of erosion losses from land under varying types of vegetative cover, and studies measures for preventing such losses.

2. Four erosion-control demonstration projects with headquarters at Zanesville, Wooster, Mt. Vernon, and Cambridge (the last, Seneca Lake, is also a research project).

3. Five C. C. C. camps, four of them doing demonstration work within a ten-mile radius of their campsites, and the fifth providing labor for the Watershed and Hydrologic Studies on Little Mill Creek. Since 1933, a total of 14 camps have worked in the watershed.

4. An S. C. S. nursery near Zanesville, which produces trees, shrubs, grasses, and vines for vegetative control of erosion. In 1937, nearly, 11,000,000 trees and shrubs were grown for use in the Muskingum and other Ohio watersheds.

5. Watershed and Hydrologic Studies on Coshocton County's Little Mill Creek, begun in 1935, and conducted under the supervision of Hydrologist W. D. Ellison. Here is recorded the relation of land use and soil conservation to the hydrologic cycle -- or the course taken by water as it falls from the clouds, soaks into the soil or is drained off, and returns again to the clouds by evaporation. The studies cover some 6,000 acres of agricultural land, where stream and rain gaging stations, silt samplers, ground water wells, and numerous scientific devices and instruments provide figures for a set of rainfall books which will eventually show the effect of conservation practices on storm flows and flood crests.

6. Research studies in sedimentation carried out at the Seneca Lake demonstration project, where the 77,500-acre watershed above the Senecaville Reservoir serves as a laboratory under the direction of H. H. Lester, project manager. Senecaville was chosen from the 14 Conservancy District dams because its watershed combines a number of typical features. If the storage capacity of the reservoir can be maintained, control measures used on its watershed will be applied to the other 13.

7. The Muskingum Climatic and Physiographic Research Center near New Philadelphia, where L. B. Corwin supervises the study of the interrelation of soil erosion and the nature of rainstorms, and H. A. Ireland conducts investigations into the effect of slope, geologic formation, ground water, and surface conditions upon the ratio of the amount of run-off to the amount of precipitation. For the climatic studies, 500 stations are located at 4-mile intervals throughout the 8,000 sq. mi. of the watershed, and daily readings each half-hour are made by a corps of observers, sent to headquarters, and charted on isorithmic maps. The physiographic studies

pay particular attention to the glacial history of the watershed and the changes in drainage. Information is gained from the several hundred borings made for dam sites in the watershed, and from water, oil and gas well logs.

C. E. Ramser, Head of the Section of Watershed and Hydrologic Studies of the Research Division, who was with the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering in charge of engineering work at the experiment stations when P. W. A. funds were first made available for flood-control purposes, made numerous suggestions to the board of managers of the Conservancy District which were helpful in preparing plans and securing Federal assistance.

FARM AND HOME HOUR

Speaking over the N. B. C. network on June 27, the occasion of the 3,000th broadcast of the National Farm and Home Hour, Secretary Wallace complimented the broadcasting company and the stations carrying the program for their enthusiasm in making the hour serve the interests of listeners.

"In the Farm and Home Hour we and others send out technical knowledge, or let you listeners know where you can get technical knowledge," Mr. Wallace said, and continued: "An important product of these nation-wide broadcasts should be understanding and good-will among all the people, for all are affected by the new programs on behalf of agriculture."

The Soil Conservation Service has to date been allowed five minutes of the Department's section of the program which begins at 11:30 A.M. each Tuesday.

Last Thursday, on a C. C. C. broadcast, Morse Salisbury, the Department's Acting Director of Information, interviewed Howard Zahniser, S. R. Broadbent, and Paul Bissell, information men for the Biological Survey, Forest Service, and Soil Conservation Service, respectively, on employment possibilities for C. C. C. enrollees.

The S. C. S., Mr. Bissell said, has employed 669 former enrollees, 124 of them in technical positions. The Service now has 360 camps, an enrollment of 64,800.

A STUDY OF EUROPEAN SOIL CONSERVATION

On July 13, M. H. Cohee, Assistant Head, Section of Cooperative Planning, sailed on the SS. Deutschland for Europe, where he will

make an extended study of proper land use regulatory measures and their administration. He plans to make a careful examination of the past and present laws and their administration in the Central European countries, with especial reference to such measures as flood control, conservation of forests and establishment of sustained yield management principles, Agricultural Chambers, distribution of costs of conservation between State and private sponsorship, and other such measures.

In May, Mr. Cohee received a grant from the Oberlander Trust established under the auspices of the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation. This grant will facilitate his study for approximately six months in Germany (including Austria), Czechoslovakia and Switzerland. The Oberlander Trust is a privately endowed organization established for development of cultural relations between the American people and the German-speaking people. It shares the purposes of the Foundation, namely, to enable those who are appreciative of the achievements of the German people to make a more distinctive contribution to the life and thought of the American people. The Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation is an American organization and has no affiliation with foreign groups.

Following his stay in the German-speaking countries, Mr. Cohee will have an additional period in Italy, England, France, Holland, Denmark and Sweden, where he will look into such work as the Zuider Zee work in Holland, the Bonifica Integrata work in Italy, and the Danish Heath Society work in Denmark. Mr. Cohee will return to Washington some time in March.

CHANGE IN THE SOUTHWEST

J. G. Lindley, onetime head of the Service's C. C. C. operations, has been appointed manager of the Gila River District, with headquarters at Safford, Ariz. R. V. Boyle, former manager of the Gila, goes to Gallup, N. M., to take charge of the Navajo District, replacing W. G. McGinnies, who is now with the Forest Service.

WATER FACILITIES STUDIED

A ten-day meeting of representatives of the field staff was held in Washington in late June and early July to consider problems connected with the Department's water facilities program for the fiscal year 1939.

In attendance were:

J. H. Christ, State Coordinator, Idaho
 R. B. Cozzens, State Coordinator, California
 R. D. Davies, State Coordinator, South Dakota
 R. D. Hockensmith, Region 6 Soil Scientist
 E. R. Kinnear, Region 1 Engineer
 F. D. Matthews, Region 8 Engineer
 L. C. Tschudy, Region 7 Engineer
 P. H. Walser, State Coordinator, Texas.

NEW SCS FILM

Harold G. Anthony, in charge of Visual Information, left July 12 for Des Moines, Iowa, to start production of a motion picture on soil conservation in the Corn Belt.

A. W. Jarrett of the Region 8 staff will do the initial camera work on the picture under the supervision of L. R. Combs, Information Specialist, Region 5, and F. E. Charles, Information Specialist, Region 3.

REGION 5 CONFERENCE

C. P. Emery, in charge of Personnel Management and Training, attended a semi-annual conference of project managers and regional heads in Region 5 held at Des Moines, Iowa, the latter part of June. Plans and budgets for the coming fiscal year were discussed, and general organization and administrative matters were carefully considered by officials of the Region.

Mr. Emery reports that a remarkably fine organization has been developed in the Region: One that understands good administrative principles and accepts responsibility for management, including such points as the proper training of employees, the safeguarding of all work against unnecessary accidents, and the development of a feeling of fair play among all members of the organization.

WATERSHED SURVEYS TO BEGIN

A. L. Patrick, Chief of the Division of Watershed and Conservation Surveys, announces that plans and arrangements are just about completed for the inauguration of flood control surveys on selected watersheds. Dr. Patrick expects that work on the surveys will be begun within the next few days.

NOTES

M. L. Nichols, Assistant Chief of the Division of Research, left last week to inspect the Service's field work west of the Mississippi. Dr. Nichols goes to Bethany, Mo., and thence northwest through Iowa, Nebraska, and Wyoming to Washington. His return trip will take him through Regions 10, 8 and 6, and he expects to be back in Washington the latter part of August.

R. L. Davis, agronomist stationed in Puerto Rico, is in Washington consulting with the Research Division on future plans and policies connected with the Service's work in that island.

F. H. Knapp, Region 8 Engineer, who has spent the past three months inspecting the Virgin Islands and preparing plans for a conservation program at Secretary of the Interior Ickes' request, has returned to Washington to report his findings.

E. A. Norton, Head of the Section of Conservation Surveys, will make an inspection tour of Region 6 the latter part of this month. This will be followed by a trip down the Mississippi Valley with representatives of the Soils Sections of the five States bordering on the Upper Mississippi for the purpose of approving the correlation and classification of physical land factors. Before he returns to Washington, Mr. Norton will assist in the initiation of surveys on soil conservation districts in Region 9.

At a recent meeting of the Library Committee a plan for a unified, coordinated library system was adopted and recommended for approval by the Service. In order to acquaint regional staff members with the plan and to confer on matters of organization and procedure, Miss Mildred Benton, Service Librarian, plans to visit the remaining regional offices in the near future. She visited Regions 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8 last month.